

BLACKS IN THE AMERICAS

HIST 215/315 • Spring 2014

Instructors

Edward L. Cox
Email: ecox@rice.edu
Office: Humanities 329
Office Phone: 713-348-2783
Office Hours: TTH 1-2 and by appointment

Fay A. Yarbrough
Email: fyarbrough@rice.edu
Office: Humanities 319
Office Phone: 713-348-2780
Office Hours: W 10:30-12 and by appointment

Meetings

Except for university holidays and other occasions either noted on the syllabus or announced in class, the course meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:50-12:05 in HUM 118.

Course Description

This is a course about the African diaspora to the New World and its consequences—from the fifteenth century to the present. The class is especially concerned with the changing social history of black people in the western hemisphere—the lived experiences of Africans and their descendants in the New World; their place in and contributions to their various societies; the possibilities and constraints defining their lives; how through their very living they changed those circumstances (for themselves and for others); and how they have been, from one era to the next, affected by the larger forces of their times. The course gives ample attention to the changing experiences of blacks in the United States and their precursors, but Afro America is much vaster than this and the men and women of its constituent parts have interacted with one another and with the larger world over the centuries in ways too important to ignore. Consequently much of the course narrative and analysis will be comparative in nature. One of the larger aims of the class is to assist students in developing a view that enables them to see how the histories of various Afro-American societies illumine one another. It is hoped that students who complete the course will go on to explore in greater depth—in their own personal study and through other courses offered at the university— topics and issues touched on here in survey.

Assessment & Assignments

The final grade for students enrolled in HIST 215 will be based on performance on three exams (75%), contribution to course discussions and intellectual community (10%), and a documentary analysis (15%).

The final grade for students enrolled in HIST 315 will be based on performance on an essay (25%), two exams (50%), contribution to course discussion and intellectual community

(10%), and a documentary analysis (15%).

Topics for essays and documentary analyses will be assigned in class well in advance of due dates.

Late assignments will be severely penalized (one letter grade per day). Students who do not complete all assignments will not pass the course.

The exam dates for HIST 215 are February 6, March 13, and May 5.

The exam dates for HIST 315 are February 6 and May 5. HIST 315 students will turn in an essay on March 13.

The documentary analysis for HIST 215 and HIST 315 is due on April 17.

Books and Readings

The following books form the course's core reading.

Dubois, Laurent. *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*.

Lee, Chana Kai. *For Freedom's Sake: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*.

Franklin, John Hope and Loren Schweninger. *In Search of the Promised Land*.

Sweet, James. *Domingos Alvares, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World*.

Wilkerson, Isabel. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*.

Statement Regarding Disability

Students with a documented disability and in need of academic or other adjustments should speak with an instructor during the first two weeks of class (all communication will remain confidential). Students with disabilities should also contact Disability Support Services in Allen Center room 111 (phone 713 348 5841, e-mail adarice@rice.edu).

Course Calendar

The seminar reading schedule is given below. All reading assignments should be completed by the seminar's first weekly meeting.

The Origins of Afro-America

Week of January 13: Sweet, 1-52

Week of January 20: Sweet, 53-122

Week of January 27: Sweet, 123-233, and Slave Trade database at: www.slavevoyages.org

Slaveries and Freedoms

Week of February 3: Dubois, 1-114

***HIST 215 Exam One on Feb. 6

****HIST 315 Exam on Feb. 6*

Week of February 10: Dubois, 115–208

Week of February 17: Dubois, 209–306

Week of February 24: Franklin and Schweninger, 1-116

Week of March 3: **Spring Break**

Week of March 10: Franklin and Schweninger, 117-261

****HIST 215 Exam Two on Mar. 13*

****HIST 315 Essay due on Mar. 13*

Into the Black Present

Week of March 17: Wilkerson, 1-180

Week of March 24: Wilkerson, 181-222

Week of March 31: Wilkerson, 223-432

Week of April 7: Wilkerson, 433-526

Week of April 14: Lee, 1-60

****HIST 215 Document Analysis due Apr. 17*

****HIST 315 Document Analysis due Apr. 17*

Week of April 21: Lee, 61-182

****For ALL DEGREE CANDIDATES, Take Home Final Due May 2 at 5pm*

****HIST 215 Take Home Final Exam due May 5 at 5pm*

****HIST 315 Take Home Final Exam due May 5 at 5pm*